Message Text

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ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 INR-07 IO-13 MED-02 NSAE-00

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AID-05 FDRE-00 DODE-00 /061 W ----- 075560

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8585 INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652 GDS TAGS: SWEL SY JO

SUBJECT: TALK WITH MINISTER OF HEALTH--CHOLERA IN SYRIA

1. WHEN AMBASSADOR PAID COURTESY CALL ON NEW JORDANIAN MINISTER OF HEALTH DR MUHAMMAD AL BASHIR, LATTER VOLUNTEERED CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION ABOUT CHOLERA IN SYRIA. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN 147 CASES WITH 11 DEATHS. THE DEATH RATE FOR THE FIRST 22 CASES HAD BEEN NEARLY FIFTY PERCENT BE CAUSE OF DIAGNOSTIC DIFFICULTIES AND REMOTE LOCATIONS OF INITIAL OUTBREAK. SYRIANS HAD DISCOVERED ONE CASE IN DAMASCUS IN THE YARMOUK REFUGEE CAMP. JORDAN HAD BEEN NOTIFIED BY THE WHO (NOT BY SYRIA) ABOUT SYRIAN EPIDEMIC. JORDAN HAD THEN SENT A MEDICAL DELEGATION TO SYRIA TO DISCOVER FOR ITSELF WHAT WS HAPPENING.

- 2.SYRIAN MINISTER OF HEALTH WAS A MEDICAL SCHOOL PROFESSOR OF NEW JORDANIAN MINISTER OF HEALTH. SYRIANS CLAIM THEY HAD FULL CARE PROGRAM AND TREATMENT AND WERE NOT PLANNING MASS VACCINATION
- 3. JORDANIANS SAID EPIDEMIC BEGAN IN NORTHWEST SYRIA BUT MOVED RAPIDLY TO THE COAST AND TOWARD THE SOUTH. JORDANIANS CONSIDE THEMSELVES LUCKY THAT THEY HAVE HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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NO CASES AND MINISTER IS HOLDING A MEETING TODAY TO

DETERMINE WHETHER A PROGRAM OF MASS VACCINATION IN JORDAN IS WISE AND FEASIBLE.

4. MINISTER OF HEALTH SAID HE HAD ALSO RE
CEIVED REPORTS AS YET UNVERIFIED OF OUTBREAKS OF SEVERAL
DISEASES IN LEBANON AS A RESULT OF THE DISRUPTION FROM
FIGHTING. HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY IN ADDITION TO
CHOLERA, TYPHOID AND THE PLAGUE.

 ${\it 5.} {\it DEPARTMENT\ PLEASE\ REPEAT\ FURTHER\ AS\ DESIRED.}$ PICKERING

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